

## **REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 5, 7, and 10 are amended. Claims 5 and 10 are amended editorially. The revisions to claims 1 and 7 are supported, for example, at Figure 1, and at page 7, lines 4-19 in the specification. Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are pending, with claims 1 and 7 being independent.

### **Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1, 4, and 6 stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,281,568 (Glenn). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a semiconductor device. The die-pad is formed with at least one slit that is located between a peripheral edge of the die-pad and a semiconductor chip.

Glenn is directed to a package for an integrated circuit device. However, Glen does not teach or suggest at least the feature of a die-pad being formed with at least one slit that is located between a peripheral edge of the die-pad and a semiconductor chip. Applicant respectfully submits that the open areas that the Office Action refers to as slits are not formed in the die-pad. Rather, they are formed outside of the die-pad and are simply inherent clearances between the die-pad and a respective lead.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 4 and 6 depend from claim 1, and are also believed allowable for at least the reason that they are dependent upon an allowable base claim.

### **Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 2 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Glenn in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,410,182 (Kurafuchi). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is believed allowable for at least the reason that it is dependent upon an allowable base claim. Kurafuchi does not remedy the deficiencies of Glenn. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 5 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Glenn in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,566,168 (Gang) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,986,333 (Nakamura). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and is believed allowable for at least the reason that it is dependent upon an allowable base claim. Neither Gang nor Nakamura remedies the deficiencies of Glenn. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 5 be withdrawn. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claims 7-9 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Glenn in view of Gang. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 7 is directed to a semiconductor device. At least one slit is located between the peripheral edge of a die-pad and a semiconductor chip.

As noted above with respect to claim 1, neither Glenn nor Gang teach or suggest at least this feature. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 is allowable over the cited references.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 7, and are also believed allowable for at least the reason that they are dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 8 and 9 be withdrawn. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claim 10 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Glenn in view of Gang and further in view of Nakamura. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

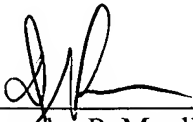
Claim 10 depends from claim 7 and is believed allowable for at least the reason that it is dependent upon an allowable base claim. Nakamura does not remedy the deficiencies of Glenn and Gang as noted above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 10 be withdrawn. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 3, 2004



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